Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of an acid-fast bacterium to which the first lysis method of the present invention is applicable include *M. avium*, *M. intracellularae*, *M. gordonae*, *M. tuberculosis*, *M. kansasii*, *M. fortuitum*, *M. chelonae*, *M. bovis*, *M. scrofulaceum*, *M. paratuberculosis*, *M. phlei*, *M. marinum*, *M. simiae*, ~~*M. scrofulaceum,*~~ *M. szulgai*, *M. leprae*, *M. xenopi*, *M. ulcerans*, *M. lepraemurium*, *M. flavescens*, *M. terrae*, *M. nonchromogenicum*, *M. malmoense*, *M. asiaticum*, *M. vaccae*, *M. gastri*, *M. triviale*, *M. haemophilum*, *M. africanum*, *M. thermoresistable*, and *M. smegmatis*.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

A clinical isolate of a tubercule bacillus was cultured in a product named MycoBroth (Kyokuto Pharmaceutical Industrial Co., Ltd.) at 37°C until a turbidity corresponding to #1 of the McFarland turbidity standard was obtained. Then, the culture was diluted with phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) so as to achieve a series of 10-fold dilutions ~~(10^2-fold to 10^5-fold)~~ (10^0-fold to 10^{10}-fold), thus preparing test solutions containing the tubercule bacillus. Subsequently, 100 µl of the test solutions with the above-described concentrations were poured into screw capped tubes, respectively, and then centrifuged (10000 g, 15 minutes) to prepare pellets. The pellets obtained from the respective test solutions were used as samples to be subjected to a lysis reaction. On the other hand, a product named Triton X-100 (Nacalai Tesque, Inc.) was dissolved in TE buffer (10 mM EDTA and 25 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0) so that its concentration became 3 wt% to prepare a lysis reagent solution, and the lysis reagent solution was sterilized by high-pressure steam in an autoclave.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 34 with the following amended paragraph:

(1) The samples subjected to the lipase treatment and the heat treatment simultaneously in the mixed reagent containing the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G and the TE-Triton reagent (Example 2-3).

(2) The samples treated with the mixed reagent containing the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G and the TE-Triton reagent.

45°C, 10 minutes → 96°C, 10 minutes

(3) The samples treated with the mixed reagent containing the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G and the TE-Triton reagent.

45°C, 30 minutes → 96°C, 10 minutes

(4) The samples treated with the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G at 37°C for 10 minutes and then heat-treated at 96°C for 10 minutes after the addition of the TE-Triton reagent.

(5) The samples treated with the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G at 37°C for 10 minutes and then heat-treated at 96°C for 10 minutes after the addition of the TE-Triton reagent.

* The mark "M" in FIG. 2 indicates a 100 bp ladder molecular weight marker.

* In each of the regions ~~(1) to (7)~~ (1) to (5), the dilution factors of the samples are 10^{-4}, $10^{-3.5}$, 10^{-3}, and $10^{-2.5}$ from the left of the lane.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

(1) to (3): The samples treated with the mixed reagent containing the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G and the TE-Triton reagent (in the presence of EDTA).

45°C, 10 minutes → 96°C, 10 minutes

(4) to (6): The samples treated with the mixed reagent containing the Lipase AY "AMANO" 30G and the Tris-triton reagent (in the absence of EDTA).

45°C, 10 minutes → 96°C, 10 minutes

* The mark "M" in FIG. 3 indicates a 100 bp ladder molecular weight marker.

* In each of the regions ~~(1) to (7)~~ (1) to (6), the dilution factors of the samples are $10^{-4.5}$, 10^{-4}, $10^{-3.5}$, 10^{-3}, and $10^{-2.5}$ from the left of the lane.

Please insert the Abstract page beginning on page 10 of this paper into the application as the last page thereof.